

THOROUGHBRED INTERESTS ATTACKED

Helm Bruce, Former Attorney for St. Louis Bucket Shop Syndicate Seeks to Destroy Racing.

REPEAL OF THE PRESENT LAW MEANS THE RETURN OF THE BANISHED BOOK MAKERS TO KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Jockey Club Pays Over \$300,000 Yearly In Taxes Into the State Treasury.

(The Thoroughbred Record.)

Kentucky is the home of the thoroughbred. It is the nursery of the finest breed of horses the world has produced. An infusion of thoroughbred blood enriches every other strain and gives quality, speed and courage to the colder breeds. Hundreds of thousands of acres are devoted to the raising of thoroughbreds in this State, and millions of dollars are invested in the industry.

At the coming session of the Legislature an organized effort will be made to destroy the thoroughbred interest, lay waste the fertile pastures, now valued at from \$100 to \$1,000 an acre, upon which they graze and reduce the peerless Man O'War, for whom \$500,000 has been refused, to the worth of a plow horse.

Under the old bookmaking system which Mr. Bruce sought to perpetuate for his clients the State did not receive a dollar; under the present law the Kentucky Jockey Club pays yearly into the State Treasury over \$300,000. If Mr. Bruce succeeds in destroying the thoroughbred interest this immense sum will be entirely lost to the State and the book-makers will return to prey on the public.

The leader of this destructive crusade, falsely put forth as a moral issue, is Helm Bruce, a Louisville lawyer, who, nursing a personal grievance, and in grateful remembrance of his former race track clients, Cella, Tilles and Adler, the St. Louis bucket shop gamblers, seeks to prohibit all racing in Kentucky. When the Racing Commission was created by an act of the Legislature and the turf in this State was taken out of the hands of the book-makers who had dishonored a royal sport, Helm Bruce, took a fee from this syndicate of bucket shop owners and sought to have the law declared unconstitutional. He was defeated in his selfish purpose and now that the scandal breeding book-maker has been driven out, and the turf is prospering under the parliamentary system, with the leading horsemen of Kentucky, selected by the Governor, giving their time to the enforcement of the law, Mr. Bruce seeks to destroy the entire turf structure and carry with it the whole thoroughbred interests of Kentucky.

Desha Brockmire, editor of the Lexington Herald, has defended racing, as now conducted under the State Commission, and in a series of frank and forceful editorials he has exposed the inconsistency of Helm Bruce, once an attorney for the book-makers, and now advocating the destruction of the parliamentary system which would open the way for the return of Mr. Bruce's former clients to Kentucky.

Mr. Bruce pleads ignorance of the character of his clients or their selfish interest in the following statement to Mr. Brockmire:

"A number of statements are made as to my knowing that certain alleged conditions in connection with racing, formerly called such as that race tracks were controlled by bookmakers, and that bookmakers retained twenty to thirty per cent, and that no more of racehorses were permitted under this system. The fact is I know none of these things.

It is said that I know that Cella, Tilles and Adler, of St. Louis, owned Latonia and Douglas Park, and it is said they ran bucket shops and race tracks in various sections of the country. I recall that Cella had an interest in the Douglas Park Jockey Club, whether or not the other persons mentioned had any interest in it or not, I do not know, and whether or not they ran bucket shops in other parts of the country, I do not know. It is said that I know these things because I was an attorney in a suit instituted against the State Racing Commission, seeking to have the act creating that Commission declared unconstitutional. It is entirely untrue that I was an attorney for the Douglas Park Jockey Club. In a suit brought to test the constitutionality of that act, but it is not at all true that I learned, in that case, or otherwise, any of the facts stated in the editorial as to gambling conditions on the race tracks.

Mr. Brockmire makes the following reply:

"Mr. Bruce knew that Cella, Tilles and Adler, who ran bucketshops and race tracks in various sections of the country, controlled Latonia and Douglas Park; that there was a syndicate book on all the tracks controlled by them; that racing in Kentucky was in a deplorable condition; that the meetings were long and under the syndicate system of bookmaking every sort of race was committed.

Mr. Bruce states: 'I know none of these things.'

"We agree that all statements made by us are true; that all intelligent men connected with racing or interested in racing know them to be true; that the facts were published in the daily newspapers, and that in the discussion in regard to the enactment of the bill creating the State Racing Commission were alleged and not denied. But we accept at its face value Mr. Bruce's statement: 'I know none of these things.'

"Mr. Bruce does recall that Cella had an interest in the Douglas Park Jockey Club. It is interesting to know that this much of what was general knowledge permeated through the atmosphere of sweet innocence that surrounded Mr. Bruce. If he had then had the slightest interest in the preservation of racing, either as a sport or as an aid to the breeding of horses or as a destructive agency of all that is good and noble, it seems to our mundane intelligence he would have informed himself as to the controlling factors in racing and certainly as to the personnel of his clients.

It has been a long time since the State Racing Commission was created and the effort made by the owners of Douglas Park and Latonia—Cella, Tilles and Adler—to have that act declared unconstitutional. Mr. Bruce makes a very plausible statement of the basis of that suit but a statement that in our opinion is entirely misleading.

(advertisement)

GLENDALE

(Written for last week.)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bracey of Casad were recent guests of Herschel Stallions and family.

Mrs. Mamie Wright of Tolu and

Miss Minnie Ross of Chicago were

guests of Mrs. Joe Clark Tuesday.

Miss Susie Bell was the guest of

Bonnie Lindsey Sunday.

Miss Berdie Lindsey visited Miss

Mary Hoover of Forest Grove Sun-

day.

power, which was never done before its creation.

Mr. Bruce may not know it, but we believe it to be a fact that the chief reason his known client, Cella and his actual clients, Cella's associates, wanted the act-declared unconstitutional was that it made possible the destruction of their syndicate book.

We do not say that Mr. Bruce knows it, because after his statement we fear to state that he knows even the most widely known fact, but according to the grand jury of Jefferson County it is a fact "that a vast number of handbooks are being operated in the city of Louisville."

We have not heard of any movement by Mr. Bruce to stop these hand books.

If Mr. Bruce had succeeded in the suit to declare unconstitutional the act creating the State Racing Commission there would be books on the race tracks as well as handbooks in the city. The law now prohibits handbooks in the city. But they exist in the city of Louisville. Yet Mr. Bruce starts a campaign against "legalized betting" and so far as we know takes no action against the illegal betting that is, in our opinion, infinitely the greater evil, which is rampant in his own home town.

In the communication published this morning, Mr. Bruce says:

"I have never pretended to make any accurate statement of what are the total profits of the Jockey Club, because I do not know them."

In a statement by him sent through the Associated Press from Louisville September 17, he says:

"A legalized giant monopoly enjoying the gambling privileges realizes a profit of two or three million of dollars a year out of this demoralizing vice."

Again we apologize for having stated in a previous editorial that Mr. Bruce knows this statement is inaccurate. But we agree that it is inaccurate and utterly misleading and known to be inaccurate by every man and woman who has even cursory information in regard to the purposes and stakes given by the Jockey Club, the expenses incident to the conduct of racing and the taxes paid by the Jockey Club.

Mr. Bruce closes his communication with this statement:

"Parliamentary betting on the race tracks may be a safer form of betting than bookmaking—safer for the gambler—but I am not interested in protecting the gambler."

Who is it Mr. Bruce is interested in protecting? As a lawyer he was interested in forwarding the interests of Cella, Tilles and Adler, who, though of course he never knew it, conducted bucket-shops and syndicate books. The present movement, fostered by him will insure to the benefit of the bookmaker and handbook men, though equally of course he does not know this. As proven by the result in New York, the success of the movement he advocates will lead to a form of gambling that is most pernicious and as a rule crooked.

As revealed by the report of the grand jury in Louisville, the handbooks flourish even in the rarified atmosphere that surrounds Mr. Bruce.

Not interested in protecting the gambler? Of course not. Not interested in the personnel of his clients who employed his services to destroy the State Racing Commission so that they might run race tracks in Kentucky as they ran them in Missouri—solely for the benefit of the syndicate book? Not interested in protecting the breeding interests? What is Mr. Bruce's real interest?

His letter reveals, according to his own statements, that Mr. Bruce has never been interested enough to ascertain even the most widely known facts in regard to racing and that he knows no more about it now than he knew when he was the attorney for Douglas Park and the bucket-shop bookmaking aggregation that owned it.

Why is Mr. Bruce giving his time and his high ability and great reputation and his money to this fight to have repealed the provision in the Kentucky statutes that was passed April 8th, 1903, years before he appeared as the attorney for the Douglas Park Jockey Club? He did not then attempt to have that section of the statutes repealed. The act creating the State Racing Commission was passed in 1906. The provision under which pari-mutuels are permitted was passed in 1903, thirteen years before that. During those years the book-makers operated as uncontrolled on the race tracks as they now operate in Louisville and will again operate on the race tracks if Mr. Bruce succeeds in his present effort.

Every man familiar with racing knows that racing has been cleaner and on a higher plane; that the stakes and purses are four or five hundred per cent greater since the bookmakers were driven from the tracks. But Mr. Bruce is not interested in protecting the gamblers nor the horsemen nor the breeders nor the financial interests of the State, nor in driving out the handbooks in Louisville.

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Mr. and Mrs. J. Winders were the recent guests of Luther Redd and family.

Mrs. Lizzie Clark and family of Memphis Mines have moved to the Clyne property here recently vacated by Joe Clark.

Miss Davie Hurley visited her sister, Mrs. Will Todd, Sunday.

Miss Grace Lindsey is in Louisville.

Miss Norline and Clatie Stallions were guests of Mildred and Naomi Gass Saturday evening.

Mr. Jim Moore and son, Thomas, were in Marion Thursday.

Miss Clement Lynn of Siloam was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Mont Morrell Tuesday.

Mrs. Eura Hodge and Miss Geneva Armstrong were in Marion last week.

Miss Crystal Hughes visited her brother, Wason Hughes of Siloam, Saturday.

PINEY FORK

(Written for last week.)

Rev. C. T. Boucher has returned from a revival at Cave Springs.

Dave Barnes wife and baby visited D. S. F. Crider Saturday.

Miss Valma Crider visited her sister the past week.

Misses Stella and Edna Sigler and Margie Belt and Mr. Reed Woodall visited Miss Ora and Ada Andrews Sunday.

Rev. J. E. Skinner spent Saturday night with Elvis Andrews and family.

J. B. Crayne visited W. G. Crayne and family Sunday.

Will Crider wife and baby visited Marsh Crider and family Saturday and Sunday.

D. S. F. Crider and son visited Bart Bradley and wife Sunday.

Miss Beatrice Crayne and Orian James spent Sunday with their aunt Myrtle Bradley.

Mrs. Effie Guess spent Sunday with Mrs. Bertie Crayne.

Mrs. Lillie Tackwell spent one day last week with Mrs. Lola Boone.

Seven persons were injured and one killed when a freight train hit an auto at Danville, Ky.

Rev. T. R. O'Bryan and wife are visiting in Hopkinsville this week.

Lumie Clark of Marion spent Monday night with Joe Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Mont Morrell and

son were in Marion Thursday.